

quadrilateral security cooperation known as the Quad which met on March 12, 2021, and reaffirmed its commitment to a shared vision for an Indo-Pacific region that is “free, open, inclusive, healthy, anchored by democratic values, and unconstrained by coercion”;

Whereas people-to-people ties between the United States and Japan are long-standing and deep, as exemplified by the gift of the beautiful cherry trees that dot our Nation’s capital from the People of Japan to the People of the United States in 1912, and the cherry blossom festivals currently taking place across our Nation, signifying an unbreakable bond between the two nations; and

Whereas, in April 2021, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga will visit the United States at the invitation of President Joe Biden: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga to the United States;

(2) reaffirms the importance of the United States-Japan alliance for maintaining peace and stability and fostering a free and open Indo-Pacific region and beyond;

(3) supports ongoing efforts to further strengthen the United States-Japan alliance, including the U.S.-Japan Security Consultative Committee (2+2) to confront threats posed by aggressive actors that threaten the peace and safety of both nations;

(4) supports strong cooperation between the United States and Japan in safeguarding maritime security and ensuring freedom of navigation, commerce, and overflight in the East and South China Seas;

(5) affirms the Senkaku Islands fall within the scope of Article V of the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, and remain opposed to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the East China Sea or undermine Japan’s administration of these islands;

(6) acknowledges Japan’s critical role as the sole East Asian member of the Quad, which commits to a shared vision for a free and inclusive Indo-Pacific region;

(7) stands in solidarity with Japan as it seeks justice and accountability for its abductees, and pledges the full support of the United States for Japan in seeking to resolve this issue;

(8) recognizes the support of the Government of Japan in addressing global challenges, including COVID-19 challenges, that threaten the health and safety of people everywhere;

(9) supports the expansion of academic and cultural exchanges between the United States and Japan, especially efforts to encourage Japanese students to study at universities in the United States, and vice versa, to deepen people-to-people ties;

(10) encourages the expansion of collaboration for research and development of new and emerging cyber technologies with Japan, especially to address global challenges posed by the proliferation of digital authoritarianism;

(11) promotes deepening the economic and trade ties between the United States and Japan, including the empowerment of women, which is vital for the prosperity of both our nations, the Indo-Pacific region, and the world; and

(12) calls for continued cooperation between the Governments of the United States and Japan in the promotion of human rights.

SENATE RESOLUTION 143—TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE THE PATRIOTISM AND SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES PROVIDED BY VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. TUBERVILLE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:

S. RES. 143

Whereas, throughout the United States, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic (referred to in this preamble as the “pandemic”) has devastated veterans and their families;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs (referred to in this preamble as the “VA”) has tested or treated over 230,000 cases of COVID-19 and has recorded over 10,000 known deaths caused by COVID-19;

Whereas over 1,000,000 veterans lost their jobs because of the pandemic, with veteran unemployment reaching nearly 12 percent in April 2020;

Whereas many veterans have experienced feelings of isolation and loneliness caused by the public health restrictions needed to curb the spread of COVID-19;

Whereas, since their inception, Veterans Service Organizations (referred to in this preamble as “VSOs”) have always supported and advocated on behalf of members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families;

Whereas VSOs have adapted to the unique challenges posed by the pandemic in order to continue to support veterans and advocate for the veteran community;

Whereas members of VSOs have fostered a sense of connection and community amid the pandemic by—

- (1) calling, emailing, or writing to fellow veterans;
- (2) delivering food and groceries to fellow veterans and their families; and
- (3) hosting virtual and socially distanced events;

Whereas members of VSOs have conducted thousands of peer-wellness checks to combat the ongoing mental health crisis that has been exacerbated by the pandemic;

Whereas VSOs have continued to help veterans access healthcare during the pandemic by—

- (1) assisting veterans with enrollment in VA healthcare plans;
- (2) enabling access to telehealth; and
- (3) providing hundreds of thousands of rides to medical appointments;

Whereas VSOs have helped veterans find employment by—

- (1) connecting veterans to employers;
- (2) hosting virtual job fairs; and
- (3) providing online job search resources;

Whereas representatives of VSOs have helped hundreds of thousands of veterans navigate a VA benefits claims process that has been changed by the pandemic;

Whereas VSOs are playing an essential role in encouraging all veterans to get vaccinated;

Whereas members of VSOs are volunteering at vaccination sites across the United States to help their fellow veterans and all other individuals in the United States receive the COVID-19 vaccine; and

Whereas VSOs will continue to play an instrumental role representing and supporting the veteran community as the United States moves forward on the path towards recov-

ering from the pandemic: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors and recognizes the patriotism and service to the United States provided by Veterans Service Organizations (referred to in this resolution as “VSOs”) during the COVID-19 pandemic;

(2) commends efforts by VSOs to improvise and adapt to the challenges posed by COVID-19 to continue to support veterans in need, especially those left most vulnerable by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

(3) supports efforts by VSOs to enable veterans, their families, and their caregivers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

SENATE RESOLUTION 144—RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF MARCH 21 THROUGH MARCH 27, 2021, AS “NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK” AND ENCOURAGING COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS OF POISONING AND PROMOTE POISON PREVENTION

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 144

Whereas the designation of National Poison Prevention Week was first authorized by Congress and President Kennedy in 1961 in Public Law 87-319 (75 Stat. 681);

Whereas National Poison Prevention Week occurs during the third full week of March each year;

Whereas, as of February 10, 2021, poison centers have handled more than 838,000 cases related to the COVID-19 pandemic alone and have seen dramatic increases in cases relating to hand sanitizer and household cleaning products;

Whereas poison control centers responded to COVID-19 related surges by conducting poison safety and poisoning prevention outreach in a virtual format during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas the American Association of Poison Control Centers (referred to in this preamble as the “AAPCC”) works with the 55 poison control centers in the United States to track—

- (1) more than 1,000 commonly used household and workplace products that can cause poisoning; and
- (2) poisonings and the sources of those poisonings;

Whereas the National Poison Data System (NPDS) database contains over 447,000 products, ranging from viral and bacterial agents to commercial chemical and drug products;

Whereas, in 2019, 2,148,141 people called the poison help line to reach a poison control center;

Whereas, in 2019, as reported to the AAPCC, 92 percent of poison exposures reported to local poison control centers occurred in the home;

Whereas local poison control centers save the people of the United States \$1,800,000,000 in medical costs annually;

Whereas the AAPCC and poison control centers partner with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, and State, local, Tribal, and territorial health departments to monitor occurrences of environmental, biological, and emerging threats in communities across the United States, including food poisoning, botulism, and vaping-associated lung injury;

Whereas, in the United States, more than 300 children 19 years of age and younger are